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PROGRAM Alex Kendrick

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ALEX KENDRICK: "In Santa Domingo, the American intervention four weeks ago to prevent an alleged Communist takeover had become, in a sense, the Johnson Administration's Bay of Pigs, though even more agonizingly drawn out, and with perhaps even more lasting repercussions.

" On the political side, the story was that the United States, professing neutrality, had started out by being neutral in favor of one side, and ended, too late, by being neutral in favor of the other. The State Department declared that the United States had no candidate for the leadership of the Dominican Republic. It not only picked such a candidate, General Antonio Imbert Barrera, whose rank is a political and not a military one, but took him out to the American carrier to brief him on his future career. It also provided him with \$750,000 to pay the over-due salaries of civil service employees, thus building in a certain amount of support for him. But when General Imbert's so-called government of national reconstruction proved to be somewhat less than that, and the 58, or was it 54, Communists tagged by the CIA faded away and the Rebels, led by Colonel Francisco Caamano, continued their fight for a constitutional restoration; the White House, and State Department policy planners, who had been directing operations from Washington, themselves flew to Santa Domingo on a special trouble shooting mission. Under the circumstances, they were not so awesome a force as they might have been back on Pennsylvania Avenue.

"On the way, they stayed over in Puerto Rico, presumably to confer with the exiled former president, Juan Bosch, and when they finally arrived in Santa Domingo, the policy had changed, though as customary on such occasions, it was declared there had been no change, but the United States now favored the resumption of the political legitimacy represented by Juan Bosch. This meant sacrificing the American chosen man of the people, General Imbert Barrera, but Imbert refused to be sacrificed. Instead, he broke the truce which had been arranged by the Organization of American States, rejected a U.N. appeal for a cease-fire and vowing that victory was certain and that he had the backing of the armed forces and controlled the country, Imbert began a new offensive against the rebels. The man behind him, General Wessin E. Wessin remained there, also refusing to resign at U.S. request.

"By this time, the American team seemed to have decided that if General Imbert was not the man of the hour, neither was the rebel leader, Colonel Caamano. The new choice was Antonio Guzman, former cabinet minister under Bosch, to serve until the next elections in eighteen months.